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Statement submitted by Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

2015 was a major year for international development as United Nations delegates met in Addis Abba and New York to reflect the new realities and challenges that the world is facing. To reflect this new turn, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo have campaigned for two integral development reforms: building capacity in developing countries through technology transfer to address national and regional priorities, and promoting the role of innovation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet the enhanced financing needs of this new agenda.

Our Foundations have been active contributors to the debates of the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations. Advocating for the inclusion of technology transfer in goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have stressed the need to empower developing countries to develop their own technology infrastructure, by supporting resource and knowledge transfer, key ingredients to self-sufficiency. Indeed, last May, former President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic and President of these Foundations moderated a High Level panel stressing the need to promote triangular cooperation, so that the technological gap between North and South does not widen, and sustainable development is promoted in the South.

An unprecedented amount of financial resources will be needed to fulfill the demands of this development agenda. In its 2013 report, "Tackling the Infrastructure Finance Deficit", the World Bank estimated that infrastructure needs of developing countries would total around US$1 trillion per year through 2020, with an additional US$200 to US$300 billion per year to ensure investments are climate resilient. Given such figures, current investment patterns will simply not deliver sustainable development. Thankfully, over the last decade a proliferation of innovative financing for development mechanisms have arisen, including the airline ticket tax and social impact bonds. There are opportunities for governments to help scale up these initiatives by partnering with them and pledging an annual amount. Engaging the private sector will also be a vital way of delivering financial products to communities that need them the most. The current use of mobile phones to make pension payments in African highlights valuable technological services that the private sector could help expand upon to provide further financial products to remote rural communities in the form of microloans. As the Secretary-General stated in "Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level", the high-level political forum should champion innovative practices to engage non-State actors in the new development agenda.

There are numerous opportunities to raise and deliver resources facilitated through technology empowerment. It is imperative for the United Nations development system to recognize them in its funding practices and partnership approaches if we are to realize the transformative development agenda laid out in Rio+20 and leave no one behind.